

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL MEMORANDUM

SJR 698

March 25, 2010

SUMMARY OF AMENDMENTS (014518, 014520): Proposes to amend Article VI, Section 5, of the Tennessee Constitution to provide for the popular election of the Attorney General and Reporter for a four-year term office. No person shall be eligible for election to more than two four-year terms. The Attorney General may prosecute any violation of state criminal statutes prohibiting misuse of public office for personal financial gain and may perform all associated prosecutorial functions. The foregoing amendment shall be referred to the 107th General Assembly and this resolution proposing such amendment be published in accordance with Article XI, Section 3, of the Constitution of Tennessee by means of posting this resolution on the official Web sites of the Secretary of State and the General Assembly.

FISCAL IMPACT OF ORIGINAL BILL:

Increase State Expenditures – Not Significant

FISCAL IMPACT OF BILL WITH PROPOSED AMENDMENTS:

Unchanged from the original fiscal note.

Assumptions applied to amendments:

- In *American Civil Liberties Union et al. v. Darnell et al.*, 195 S.W.3d 612, 626 n.12 (Tenn. 2006), the Tennessee Supreme Court noted without deciding the issue that: "The General Assembly has the authority to adopt a rule or enact a statute that defines the term 'published' used in Article XI, Section 3 or that specifies the means and manner of publication. When interpreting constitutional provisions, courts carefully consider any interpretation the General Assembly has given the provision." This note assumes that authorization by the General Assembly of electronic publication complies with the constitutional publication requirement.
- Posting this resolution on the official Web sites of the Secretary of State and the General Assembly will not increase state expenditures by a significant amount.

- Article XI, Section 3 of the Constitution requires publication of the resolution before the next legislative election. This publication would occur in the spring of 2010.

CERTIFICATION:

This is to duly certify that the information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "James W. White". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "James" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "White".

James W. White, Executive Director

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